

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of changes will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the specification.

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method of connecting a client system to a target network comprising:

a step of providing software to the client system that will allow the client system to connect to the target network; and

a step of connecting the client system to the target network via a host system controlled by the software provided in the client system without needing to authenticate said host system to said target system, the step of connecting the client system to the target network comprising:

a step of locating the target network through the host system;

a step of determining requirements for connecting the client system to the target network; and

a step of linking the client system to the target network based on the requirements through a tunnel in said host system:

~~wherein requirements of the host system are not essential for connecting the client system to the target network said client software is prevented from accessing resources outside of said tunnel in said host system.~~

21. (currently amended) A method of connecting a client system to a target network comprising:

a step of providing software to the client system that will allow the client system to connect to the target network; and

a step of connecting the client system to the target network via a host system controlled by the software provided in the client system without needing to authenticate said host system to said target system, the step of connecting the client system to the target network comprising:

a step of locating the target network through the host system;

a step of determining requirements for connecting the client system to the target network; and

a step of linking the client system to the target network based on the

requirements;

wherinc ~~requirements of the host system are not essential for connecting the client system to the target network~~ ~~said client software is prevented from accessing resources of said host system.~~

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the determining step is made in a server.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the target network is the Internet.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the target network is a public network.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the target network is a PSTN.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the client system is a mobile phone.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the host system is the a virtual private network.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the host system and the client system are members of a service that gives reciprocal roaming rights.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 where the determining step further comprises:

a step of determining a cost of obtaining a link; and

a step of comparing the cost with a predetermined limit stored by said client system where a match will be found if the cost is less than or equal to the predetermined limit.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the host system is not connected to the target network and will make the connection to the target network upon request by the client system.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the link through the host system comprises channels to transmit time divided data.
32. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising a step of connecting a second client system to the first client system in order that the second client system is able to access the target network through the host system.
33. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising
 - a step of connecting through a second host system under control of the second host system, the second host system being capable of accessing the target network;
 - a step of connecting the client system to the second host system under the control of the client system;
 - a step of comparing preferences of the second host system and the client system under the control of a matching means,
 - a step of establishing a secure link from the client system to the target network through the second host system when the requirements of the second host system and client system match; said client system not accessing any resources of the second host system; and
 - a step of disconnecting the client system from the first host system.
34. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the establishing step further comprises the step of notifying a user of the client system of the availability of a link wherein the user can accept or reject the connection.
35. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein any data sent by the client system is encrypted prior to being sent to the network such that the privacy and security of the client are maintained.
36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the encryption can be selectively applied to the data depending on preferences.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the connecting step comprises the step of causing the host system to mimic air interference for a cordless telephone link
38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising a step of converting a data stream into data packets for transmission over the Internet under the control of the host system.
39. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein client configuration is performed automatically by the host system when the host system is first powered on.
40. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the connecting step comprises using a wireless connection technology.
41. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the linking step occurs automatically once the requirements for connecting the client system to the target network have been determined.
42. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the packets are VoIP.
43. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the packets are sent over any available port in order to pass through a firewall.
44. (previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the client system connects to and disconnects from the host system and second host system via the determining requirements step.
45. (previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the connecting step comprises the step of coordinating the different frequencies used by the client system in connecting to the host system

46. (withdrawn) A system to connect a client system to a target network comprising:
a host system capable accessing the target network;
a client system capable of connecting to the host system; wherein said host system is connected to a target network;
a matching means capable of comparing requirements of the host system and the client system and establishing a secure link from the client system to the target network when the requirements of the host system and the client system match;
wherein the client system does not access any resources of the host system; and
wherein said host system is capable of establishing said secure link when the requirements of the host system and client system do not match and the requirements of the host system are not essential for connecting to the target network.
47. (withdrawn) A cooperative networking system for connecting a client system to a target network; said networking system comprising:
a cooperative agent program capable of receiving a request to allow said client system to connect to a host system; said host system being capable of accessing said target network;
wherein said cooperative agent is capable of examining membership information stored on said client and host systems to determine whether the second host system and the first client system are registered members of said cooperative networking system and approving said request depending on said membership status before said host system accesses said target network; and
a matching means capable of comparing preferences of the host system and the client system and establishing a secure link from the client system to the target network in the host system based on the preferences; wherein said tunnel is controlled by said host system and the client system does not access any resources of the host system wherein the preferences of the host system are not essential for connecting the client system to the target network.
- 48 (previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising: a step of ensuring that the client system has no access to the host system other than as a connection to the target network.